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# PART 6

## Science, Technology and Sustainability

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The United States stands as a world leader in science, technology, and research, but also leads in consumption of the earth's resources and production of waste. The two chapters that make up Part 6 remind Americans of their responsibilities as global leaders to apply their science and technology resources to the sustainability of the planet.

Ismail Serageldin, director of the Library of Alexandria in Egypt, begins Chapter 19 by stating, "We are living in the age of science....Thanks to numerous scientific advances, we are now moving to the third global revolution, a new world that has never been more promising, or more perilous." The first global revolution was agrarian, the second industrial. The third revolution, information, has changed the way we look at the world. Serageldin reminds the reader that in this world of apparent plenty, there still remain millions of people living on this earth without enough resources to sustain them, and the gap between the rich and poor is growing. He urges members of the scientific community to cooperate with each other, and renew a commitment to work for the benefit of the entire human family. He states, "If not us, who? If not now, when?"

Peter Raven, former chair of the AAAS Board of Directors and director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, continues the theme of global sustainability in Chapter 20. Raven also urges a cooperative partnership between scientists in industrialized nations and those in developing countries. He outlines a vision for the future and some general principles for the U.S. to follow as a global leader in science. He states, "In reality, the only way to build a secure future is to change both that world and our way of thinking about it."

